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Poles Charge U.S. Diplomat Spied, Claim Film Is Proof

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WARSAW, April 22—The Polish government today accused a U.S. diplomat stationed here of spying and said his activity was evidence of aggressive American espionage in Soviet Bloc countries.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban said that Albert Mueller, a second secretary in the political section of the U.S. Embassy, had been "caught red-handed" Saturday night as he met with a contact to deliver spying equipment, money and instructions.

Urban said Mueller was detained by police until he was identified as a diplomat, then released to American officials. The Polish Foreign Ministry delivered a protest note to U.S. officials here Monday about Mueller's alleged activity but did not formally expel him, Urban said. A U.S. Embassy spokesman said Mueller had left the country Sunday.

The incident, which Urban described as a setback in U.S.-Polish relations, came at a time when the Reagan administration has focused attention on alleged spying by Soviet agents at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. It also coincided with the Polish government's reaction to revelations by a high-level defector, Ryszard Kuklinski, who it says supplied the CIA with an inside account of preparations for martial law in 1981.

In a prepared statement at his weekly news conference, Urban connected the spying accusation to both incidents, accusing Washington of "spymania."

"The United States maintains in the socialist countries, including Poland, numerous intelligence teams and recruits new Kuklinskis," he said.

"The Polish counterintelligence service had long before established the full list of members of the intelligence unit at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw," he added, "and has noted that their number has markedly increased recently."

In an elaborate presentation, Urban showed western and Polish journalists a film that he said showed Mueller meeting with a contact in a wooded area in Warsaw.

The film also showed Mueller being interrogated, and journalists were offered copies of spying instructions said to have been seized by police.

U.S. officials here said they would not comment on Urban's charges.

But a spokesman said U.S. charge d'affaires John Davis had delivered a protest to the Foreign Ministry, saying police had detained Mueller for 6½ hours in violation of his diplomatic immunity.

[In Washington, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "As far as I know he's not a spy."]

The treatment of Mueller's case by the government of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski is similar to that given last June to another American diplomat, Stephen Mull, who was accused on state television of spying but not expelled.

Mull left the country.

In May 1985 Warsaw expelled two U.S. diplomats, and the Reagan administration

responded by ordering four Polish officials to leave the United States.

Urban said the new incident had "impaired" a trend of improving relations between the United States and Poland.

Despite such steps as the lifting of long-standing economic sanctions against Warsaw by the Reagan administration in February, Urban said "the substance of Polish-American relations remains sensitive and fragile after a period of total impasse."

Urban said Mueller had gathered information both on military subjects and the domestic opposition. He cited military questions Mueller allegedly pursued with Polish contacts and listed a series of "secret" meetings he said the diplomat had had with prominent opposition activists and intellectuals.

One of the activists named by Urban, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, denied that he had had clandestine meetings with Mueller.

Instead, Onyszkiewicz, the spokesman of the banned trade union Solidarity, said the times and places cited by Urban corresponded to American diplomatic receptions he had attended.



ALBERT MUELLER
... leaves Poland after detention